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She will enter the M.T.C. November 9th.

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FRIDAY, August 17, 1984 THE HERALD, Provo, Utah, — Page 9

Caring for Old Akin to Child Care

By Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: I simply must respond to the letters in your column from children who complain about the inconvenience of taking care of elderly parents.

We all know that caring for the elderly is not an easy job, but don't those children realize it was no piece of cake to care for them when they were young? In fact, the dependency of the old is similar to that of infants.

The man from Colorado describes the loss of social life, confinement and the enormous energy that must be expended taking care of his elderly mother and dad. He goes on to complain about the cost of medicine. Doesn't "Colorado" realize it was time-consuming and costly to raise him and his brothers and sisters to adulthood? They didn't survive alone.

My parents are in their late 60s and in excellent health. But if they should become ill, you can be sure they will always have a place under my roof. My husband and I are setting up a special fund so that if we should require special care in our old age, we will be able to afford outside help to come in and tend to our needs. You see, Ann, our parents raised more loving children than we did. Enough said. — Superior, Wis.

Dear Superior: Your story is one I have heard before. But in all fairness we must take into consideration the differences in lifestyle.

Today, we have smaller dwellings and many more working wives. No one is at home to care for the old folks. It's a different world and the care of the elderly has suffered because of it. A sad story indeed. Here's another one — with a different twist.

Dear Ann: May I say something to childless women who feel uncomfortable when they get together with their friends and the conversation is all about kids?

Those babies don't stay babies forever. They grow up to be teenagers, and that's when the disappointments, tears, anger, anguish, frustration, and hurt set in.

When you have spent a good part of your life, time, effort and money in loving care and get nothing in return, it's pretty dismal. We are not asking for the moon, we would just like to get a little pleasure out of our kids.

If I had my life to live over again, I would not have a family. We did all the "right stuff," yet our children are insensitive, thoughtless, self-centered adults.

Having kids will not guarantee happiness. Get a couple of dogs instead. They always will give you pleasure and you will end up with more money in your pockets besides. — Smart Too Late In Connecticut

Dear S.T.L.: Your story reflects a lot of pain and disappointment. My condolences — to you — and your children.

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Lydia's Crew

Back Row L to R
Carol Duke
Frances Young
Middle:
Elva Casper
Irene North
Lydia Housey
Front:
Ethel Johnson
Zella Davis Blackley

— From Lucille Todd



Lydia's Rest Home Closes Doors at 18

13 Nov 1969

I cannot say "it was closed", that is too impersonal. There was nothing impersonal about Lydia's Rest Home. It was a home of love, consideration, peace and comfort for the fifty family members who have lived there. Some 80-year-old children, some happy teenagers in their early nineties. Some ill and suffering, keen minded and grateful. All of them mothered as tenderly, devoutly as any mother could. Fed with delicious food, the best money could buy. Nicely cooked and artistically served.

It was a clean, fragrant home. Sunbeams shining through the South windows turned silver hair to gold and pained faces to smiles as it poured into the living room where they were sitting or peeked into bedrooms where they laid. Lake Creek flowing gently by the North side of the house lulled them to sleep.

There was laughter and gentle visiting by family members who were always welcome and by the "Rest Home Mothers" who cared for them night and day.

Lydia Hausey dreamed of a lovely home for the aged. Opened it January 17, 1961. Several blessed women assisted her. Ethel Johnson who wished she could rock them in her arms — she loved them so much. Zella Blackley, Irene North, Elva Casper, Bonnie Casper and others who came for shorter periods, but all brought compassion to the precious ladies, doing more for them than their children could at home.

When thirty-four of their numbers were called home by death, they were mourned by their Rest Home Mothers as deeply and sincerely as by their own families. Always they each contributed one dollar to help buy clothes.

The reputation of this home spread and patients came from Idaho, California, Logan, Salt Lake, Tabby and, of course, our entire valley.

The House was too small — thousands of dollars were spent to meet requirements — five bedrooms, a kitchen, bath, utility room and new furnace were added.

Now the doors are silently closed, seven of the nine patients will go to the Wasatch Co. Hospital. Carol Duke is going with them to help them feel the tender "at home" feeling they have enjoyed.

Lydia, our community joins in gratitude for your dedicated devotion to your fellow men. May you know the joy that comes from unselfish service.



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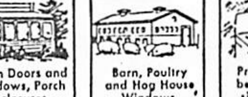
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Luella Fitzgerald spent a few days in Orem with Valorie and Mike Prestwich and attended the Relief Society Bazaar with them which was a really gala affair with a turkey dinner, to rooms of lovely things to please the eye. After she returned, she was happy to have Lynette Fitzgerald and husband of Lima, Montana. They also called on her grandfather, Bert Sorenson and wife and other relatives and friends while here.

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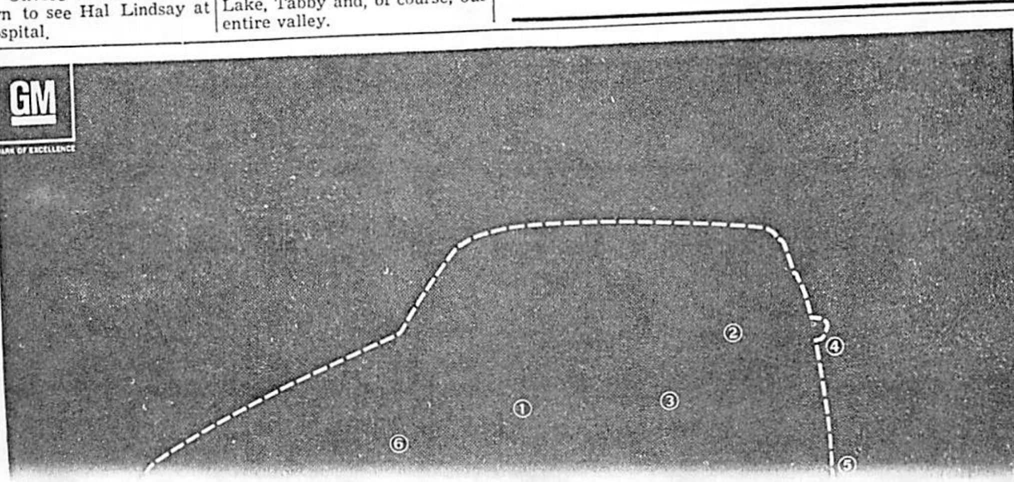
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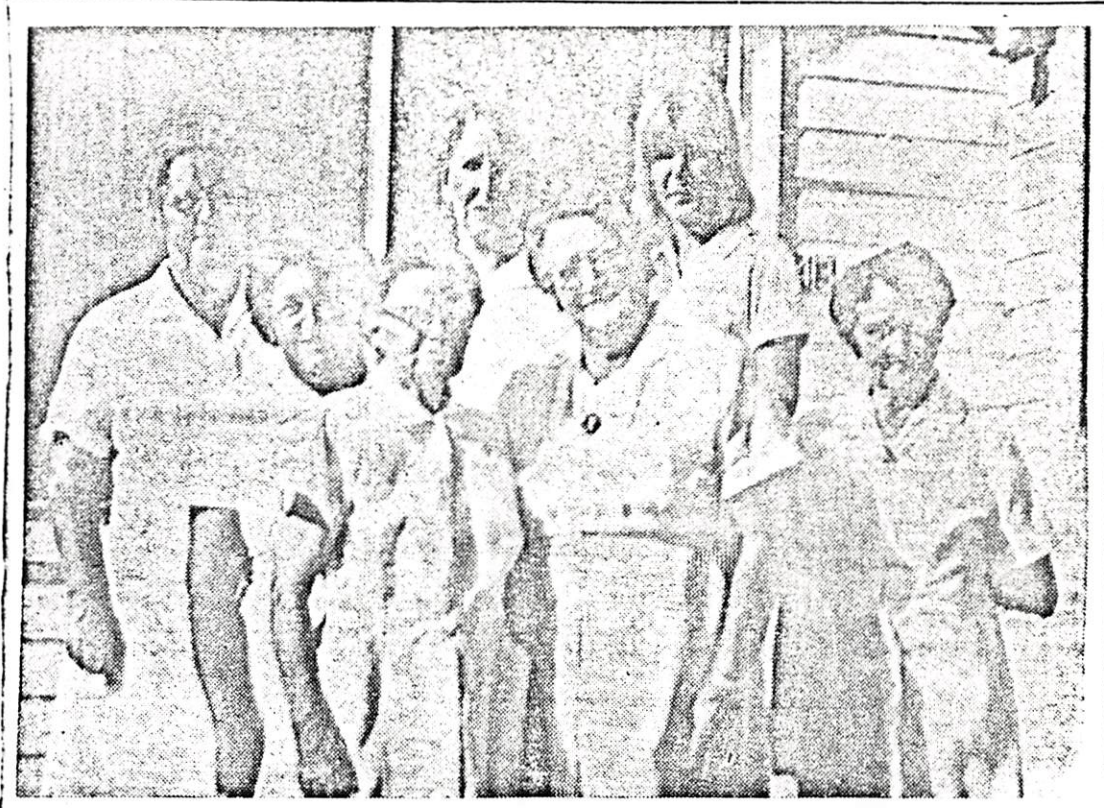
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